

February 19, 2003

Robert Smith, Chief  
Bureau of Water Management  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your submittal of the 2002 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list, **Connecticut Water Bodies Not Meeting Water Quality Standards**. In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR §130.7, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a complete review of Connecticut's 2002 Section 303(d) list and supporting documentation. Based on this review, EPA has determined that Connecticut's list of water quality limited segments (WQLSs) still requiring TMDLs meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA" or "the Act") and EPA's implementing regulations. Therefore, by this letter, EPA hereby APPROVES Connecticut's Section 303(d) list. Connecticut was the first State in the Region to submit its list and you are the first New England State to receive approval.

The submittal includes a list of those waters for which technology based and other required controls for point and nonpoint sources are not stringent enough to attain or maintain compliance with the State's Water Quality Standards. The submittal presents Connecticut's TMDL strategy which describes the TMDL priority setting approach and identifies those waters for which Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) will be completed and submitted during the next two years. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and EPA - New England's review of Connecticut's compliance with each requirement, are described in detail in the enclosed approval document.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has also successfully completed a public participation process during which the public was given the opportunity to review and comment on the §303(d) list. As a result of this effort, Connecticut has considered public comments in the development of the final list. A summary of the public comments and DEP's response to comments was included in the final submittal.

We are pleased with the quality of your submittal and appreciate the level of effort that CT DEP has devoted to preparing the 2002 §303(d) list. Your staff have done an excellent job of preparing a comprehensive and informative list, and providing EPA with thorough supporting documentation and assistance. My staff and I look forward to continued cooperation with DEP in implementing the requirements under Section 303(d) of the CWA. Please feel free to contact me or Steven Winnett at 617-918-1687, if you have any questions or comments on our review.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Murphy, Director  
Office of Ecosystem Protection

Enclosures

cc: Thomas Morrissey, CT DEP  
Lee Dunbar, CT DEP  
Fred Banach, CT DEP  
Chris Bellucci, CT DEP  
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Steven Winnett, EPA  
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